



Date: October 27, 2021

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA) **ARCHITECTURAL BARRIER REMOVAL PROGRAM**

SUMMARY

The Austin Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) announces the upcoming availability of **\$1,695,000** in funding for the Architectural Barrier Removal Program (\$1,510,000 for Owner-Occupied housing and \$185,000 for Renters), and currently seeks proposals from experienced non-profit organizations to provide repairs that modifies or retrofits the living quarters of eligible, low-income elderly and disabled homeowners.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Architectural Barrier Removal Program (ABR), herein referred to as the Program, is to assist low to moderate income homeowners residing within the full corporate city limits of Austin. The Program seeks to remove architectural barriers in the homes of elderly and disabled homeowners, increasing mobility and self-sufficiency and allowing clients to remain in their homes. No more than \$20,000 per home per year can be provided to a single home through the program and it is estimated that 87 homes will be assisted during the program year throughout the City of Austin. Services will benefit low- to moderate-income families and individuals whose household income is at or below 80% of the Area Median Family Income (AMFI) as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

ELIGIBLE CLIENTS

All Program assistance may be provided in the form of a grant to eligible clients approved by the Program and meeting all applicable program guidelines. Households served must have combined household income at or below 80% of the AMFI. Each homeowner receiving assistance through this program must occupy the home and the home must be the owner's homestead.

PROGRAM ASSISTANCE

The program provides up to **\$20,000** of assistance per home per fiscal year. In addition, this assistance does not include any other assistance from the participant organization using its regular programs and funding. The program provides **20%** per project to cover program delivery and overhead costs for the organization.

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and will provide reasonable modifications and equal access to communications upon request.*

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:

Program services provided must be related to this Program as defined under HUD 24 CFR 570. The Program is not intended to address any other type of repair or service. Additional program activities not mentioned in the program guidelines will require Treasurer's Approval case by case. Allowable services include but are not exclusively limited to: Page | 7 ABR Guidelines Homeowner Revised October 2021 1. Reconfiguring a bathroom to the extent that the disabled resident will be able to use the toilet and shower; 2. Installation of handrails and/or grab bars; 3. Construction of wheelchair ramps; 4. Widening of doorways; 5. Installation of handrails or grab bars on medically required pools, hot tubs or saunas; 6. Installation of lever type faucet handles; 7. Installation of lever type door handles; 8. Installation of shower wands; 9. Installation of raised toilets and versa-frames; 10. Installation of extended toilet seats; 11. Countertops and cabinet adjustments; and 12. Installation of devices, buzzers or flashing lights to aid the sight or hearing impaired persons.

ELIGIBLE NOFA APPLICANTS

Eligible NOFA applicants should be non-profit organizations that have experience with home repair services. Organizations must have an active Franchise Tax Account Status from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and they should not be on the City of Austin's debarment list.

CONTRACT TERMS:

The contract term is estimated to begin January 1, 2022 and end on September 30, 2023 and AHFC retains the right to extend the contract.

NOFA APPLICATION PROCESS

The funds being released under this NOFA are not subject to a pre-determinate allocation. Applications received will be reviewed and scored on a competitive basis according to organizational capacity and experience as well as published evaluation criteria for Program participation. To be considered, applications must be complete, contain all the required documentation and meet the minimum threshold criteria as stated in the Program Guidelines and Scoring Criteria. A score above the minimum score does not guarantee funding.

NOTE: The funding will be distributed to projects on a **first come, first served basis** after the Program applicant and property has been determined to be eligible for the Program and a Delivery Order Number (DO#) has been requested.

NOFA packets may be obtained by visiting the HPD web site at: <http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/housing>. The program guidelines, proposal format and scoring criteria can also be found at the HPD website.

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A non-mandatory Pre-Submittal meeting will be held at **10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 2, 2021**, via Microsoft TEAMS. To register to attend this meeting, please email your **NAME, FIRM and EMAIL ADDRESS** to Alan Fish at alan.fish@austintexas.gov A TEAMS meeting invite will be sent directly to your email address.

Sealed applications relating to this NOFA are due prior to 3:00 p.m., November 18, 2021, at the office of AHFC, 1000 East 11th Street, 2nd Floor, Austin, TX 78702. Applicants shall submit one (1) original and one (1) electronic copy of the application. The paper copy of the Application shall be printed on standard 8 ½ x 11 paper, double-sided, have consecutively numbered pages, and clearly labeled “ORIGINAL” and contain the signature of the person authorized to sign on behalf of the Applicant. The electronic copy of the Application shall be in Portable Document Format (.pdf) and submitted on a flash drive and shall be exact replicas of the original paper copy with bookmarks that correspond with Submittal tab numbers.

ALL APPLICATIONS NOT RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE DATE AND TIME SET FORTH ABOVE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION. The time stamp clock in Suite 200 Reception Area is the time of record.

Questions regarding the NOFA process or program requirements may be directed to: Edward Blake, Program Manager at edward.blake@austintexas.gov or Alan Fish, Procurement Representative at alan.fish@austintexas.gov

The City of Austin does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. Lee Nguyen is the City's Acting ADA/Section 504 Coordinator. If you have any questions or complaints regarding your ADA/Section 504 rights, please call him at 974-1897. The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request.

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